(b) if so, by when the release from last year's balance accrual amount of Rs. 77.01 crore would be made to Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As on 01.04.2007 there is unutilised fund of Rs. 62.69 crore under Central Road Fund (CRF) of previous years for the State of Rajasthan. Further funds can be released based on the progress of the sanctioned works and utilization certificates received from the State Government.

**Clearance of pending projects in Rajasthan**

1883. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Qeustion 244 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 10th August, 2006 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has given a reply that due to slow progress of work the amount to State Government of Rajasthan has not been released;

(b) the reasons for Rajasthan's progress being held slow, while from the year 2004-05 onwards the progress of CRF works has been kept on higher side with respect to the annual accrual amount of particular years; and

(c) by when the Rs. 77.01 crore due to the State Government of Rajasthan is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) In reply to Starred Question No. 244 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 10th Augsut, 2006 it was stated that funds are released based on the progress of the sanctioned works and utilization certificates received from the State Government. Difference in accrual and release is due to inadequate utilization of Central Road Fund by the State Government.

(c) There was unutilised fund of Rs. 77.01 crore under Central Road Fund (CRF) from 2000-01 to 2003-04. Out of this Rs. 14.32 crore was released to State in 2006-07, which was in addition to the allocation of the State for 2006-07. Thus there is unutilised fund of Rs. 62.69 crore of previous years. Further funds can be released based on the progress of the sanctioned works and utilization certificates received from the State Government.

**Model Concession Agreement for ports**

1884. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is set to finalize the Model Concession Agreement (MCA) for ports and the move is likely to give a major boost to private investment in port development in the country;

(b) whether one of the major reasons for the delay in finalizing the agreement was the lack of consensus over the tariff fixation model which has been sorted out; and

(c) if so, the extent this model agreement would help to boost private funding imports?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The Government is in the process of finalising a new Model Concession Agreement (MCA) for Private Sector Projects in the Major Ports which will replace the existing Model License Agreement.

(c) The new MCA is expected to strengthen the framework for an open and transparent environment for the development and operation of port facilities by private investors and enhance their bankability.

**Expressways in the country**

†1885. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that need is being felt for comprehensive improvement in the roadways for better management of traffic in the country;

(b) if so, whether development of roads as "Expressways" is also included in the said improvements; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the total length of the roads which are proposed to be converted into Expressways till date in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government as a part of the comprehensive development of National Highways has approved construction of 1000 km of expressways under National Highways Development Project (NHDP), Phase-VI at a cost of Rs. 16680 crores on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis. The section of Vadodara-Mumbai (400 km) has already been identified and the other 600 km would be identified out of the potential corridors of Delhi-Chandigarh (249 kms), Bangalore-Chennai (334 kms), Delhi-Jaipur (261 kms), Delhi-Meerut (66 Kms), Kolkata-Dhanbad (277 kms) and Delhi-Agra (200 kms). In addition, construction of 134 km of eastern peripheral expressway around Delhi has been approved by the Central Government.

**Interceptor to control traffic violations**

1886. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Orissa has introduced a technology "Interceptor" on the highways to track down overloading/over-speeding/drunken driving;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi